

Wycombe W. take points though Ilford fight back

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WANDS. 2 : ILFORD 0

IMPROVED finishing enabled Wycombe Wanderers to beat a hard-fighting Ilford side in their Isthmian League match at High Wycombe today.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Atkins; Thomas, Fisher, D. Worley; Rockell, L. Worley, Bates, James, Tomlin.

Ilford: George; Auger, Wright; McKenry, Whittail, Belchamber; Hankey, Muskell, Hayward, Winch, Morris. Referee: I. Rosekilly (Hillingdon).

Wycombe missed a good chance early on when there was no one upfield to take advantage of a well-placed centre by James, who distinguished himself a little later with a powerful shot which brought goalkeeper George to his knees.

WYCOMBE IMPRESS

Wycombe looked the more businesslike side on the heavy cloying pitch, and the artistry of Len Worley and Rockell frequently had the Ilford defence in a tangle.

But in one swift Ilford raid Brown brought off a smart save from a clever hook shot by Heywood.

Ilford were lucky to escape when a through pass by Bates enabled James to test the goalkeeper but he missed another easy chance when the ball ran loose.

Another fine centre by Worley gave James another chance but his header was well saved but 19 minutes after the start ROCKELL put Wycombe in the lead from a centre by Thomas.

Wycombe continued to plaster the Ilford goal from all angles but still lacked accuracy in their marksmanship.

A GOOD PAIR

By packing their goal the visitors managed to keep them at bay. But the goalkeeper had to make several spectacular saves, notably from the busy

right wing pair, Worley and Rockell, whose combination was an outstanding feature of the game.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Ilford 0.

SURPRISES

A surprise long-range shot by Belchamber almost found the mark for Ilford in the first few minutes of the second half, but Brown made an excellent save. Then a faulty clearance by Belchamber gave James a great opportunity, but he was too slow with his shot a few feet from goal.

Ilford, who had a lively leader in Heywood, were now putting a good deal more punch into their attacks, but five minutes after the resumption JAMES atoned for his many early misses by scoring a fine goal after a solo run to put Wycombe two up.

There was still plenty of fight in Ilford, however, and with Wycombe finding increasing difficulty in moving the ball in the mud, Heywood and right-winger Hankey gave the home goal some anxious moments.

Brown was kept a good deal busier at this period than the Ilford keeper, and twice he saved the Wanderers with daring saves.

Then Bates electrified the crowd with a high-powered solo run, in which he was robbed at the last minute but recovered the ball to get in a shot which went just wide.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2
ILFORD 0

WYCOMBE WIN AFTER SLIPS

Wycombe W. 2 Ilford 0

IF their marksmanship had matched their approach play, Wycombe Wanderers would have been at least four goals up at half-time against Ilford, their weakened, hard-pressed Isthmian League opponents.

As it was, all they had to show for the first half of furious endeavour and outright superiority was a goal from right winger Rockell in the 19th minute and a melancholy succession of missed chances, most of them by industrious Peter James, at inside left.

Ilford, who had to make several late changes, were often in a tangle in defence and they had no answer to the artistry of Wycombe's brilliant right wing pair, Worley and Rockell, whose clever combination was a feature of the day.

James atoned for his earlier inaccuracy by scoring five minutes after the interval following a smart solo run.

Then Ilford, with Heywood the enterprising leader of a much bolder attack, rallied so strongly that now it was the home side who were largely on the defensive.

But Ilford, although they moved the ball more successfully in the clinging mud, were no more accurate in shooting than Wycombe had been in the first half.